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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Armenia, Belarus, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sweden, Tajikistan and United States of America: draft resolution

Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/113 of 20 December 1993, 49/173 of 23 December 1994, 50/151 of 21 December 1995 and, in particular, 51/70 of 12 December 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[2]

Recognizing the acuteness of the migration and displacement of problems in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

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[1] A/52/274 and Corr.1.

[2] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/52/12).

Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration towards developing strategies and practical tools for more effective capacity-building and enhancing programmes to address the needs of various categories of concern to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Convinced of the necessity for further strengthening of practical measures towards the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States,[3]

Reaffirming the view of the Conference that the primary responsibility for tackling population displacement problems lies with the affected countries themselves and that these issues are to be regarded as national priorities, while at the same time recognizing the need for enhancing international support of the national efforts of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States aiming at the effective implementation of such responsibilities within the framework of the Programme of Action,

Recalling that the protection and promotion of human rights and the strengthening of democratic institutions are essential to prevent mass population displacement,

Mindful that effective implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action should be facilitated and can be ensured only through cooperation and coordinated activities undertaken in this respect by all interested States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other actors,

Noting and reaffirming the importance of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[4] and its 1967 Protocol,[5]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[2]

2. Notes the positive results achieved by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States and invites these organizations to continue to steer the ongoing and future activities relating to the follow-up of the Conference;

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[3] A/51/341 and Corr.1, annex, appendix.

[4] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[5] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

3. Welcomes the efforts of the Governments of those countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States that, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, have undertaken practical steps in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

4. Invites all countries that have not yet done so to accede to and implement fully the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol;

5. Appreciates the efforts made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to support the implementation of the Programme of Action in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and underlines the necessity of an appropriate response by the international community to appeals for funds by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration;

6. Calls upon States and interested international organizations to provide appropriate forms and levels of support for the practical implementation of the Programme of Action in a spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing;

7. Urges international financial and other institutions to contribute to the financing of projects and programmes within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

8. Invites the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to intensify bilateral and subregional cooperation in maintaining the balance of commitments and interests in the process leading up to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

9. Calls upon the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to continue to strengthen their commitment to the principles underpinning the Programme of Action, in particular human rights and refugee protection principles, and to lend high-level political support to ensure progress in its implementation;

10. Emphasizes the necessity of fulfilling the recommendations of the Programme of Action relating to ensuring respect for human rights as an important factor in the management of migration flows, the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law and stability;

11. Urges the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to take into account those elements of the Programme of Action that are relevant to her mandate;

12. Encourages the involvement of intergovernmental and non-governmental organization in the follow-up to the Conference, inviting them to demonstrate

stronger support for the process of the multinational constructive dialogue among a wide range of the countries concerned and further action with a view to the full implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

13. Calls upon the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States as well as international organizations to further strengthen their cooperation with non-governmental organizations and increase their involvement in the implementation of the outcome and follow-up of the Conference;

14. Requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to enhance its relationship with other key international actors, such as the Council of Europe, the European Commission and other human rights, development and financial institutions, in order to better address the wide-ranging and complex issues in the Programme of Action;

15. Recognizes the importance of undertaking measures, on the basis of strict adherence to all of the principles of international law including humanitarian law and international human rights standards, to prevent situations leading to new flows of refugees and displaced persons, and other forms of involuntary displacement;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

17. Decides to continue examination of this question at its fifty-third session under the appropriate agenda item.